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Recommendation for funding from other resources without a recommendation for funding from regular resources**

Viet Nam

Summary

The present document contains a recommendation for funding from other resources for which no recommendation for funding from regular resources is requested for the country programme of Viet Nam. The programme proposal submitted here is aimed at expanding or complementing an ongoing programme. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve funding from other resources in the amount of $4,998,000, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2002 to 2005.

The situation of children and women

1. The situation of children and women in Viet Nam has improved considerably over the past decade. The under-five mortality rate has declined from 55 to 42 per 1,000 live births, the country has been declared polio free since 2000, and micronutrient deficiencies have been reduced. Substantial progress has also been made in expanding access to safe drinking water, improving sanitation, and increasing primary school enrolment and completion rates.

* E/ICEF/2001/12.

** The figures provided in the present document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 2000. They will be contained in the summary of recommendations for regular resources and other resources programmes for 2001 (E/ICEF/2001/P/L.73).

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2. While such trends are encouraging, a number of factors place many of these achievements at risk. There are ever-increasing gaps between the rich and the poor, and between rural and urban populations. Ethnic minorities have not shared in many of the benefits of the past decade's developments owing to social and cultural divisions. Malnutrition, high maternal mortality, poor sanitation and hygiene, low access to quality primary education, the threat of the spreading HIV/AIDS epidemic and the increasing number of children in need of special protection remain major concerns for Vietnamese children, particularly those living in remote and disadvantaged areas.

3. In addition to those concerns, injuries, caused by accidents, are emerging as the leading cause of death and disability for Vietnamese children and adolescents. It is estimated that such accidents seriously injure 5,000 children every week and lead to the deaths of approximately 50,000 children every year. The leading causes of accident-related deaths are traffic accidents, drowning, poisoning (especially pesticide poisoning), falls and electrocution. In some regions, landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) also lead to death and disability. There are many more cases of resulting disabilities for every life lost to an accident, but awareness of injury prevention is extremely low among the general population, with the poor especially vulnerable.

Programme cooperation, 2001-2005

4. The programme of cooperation for 2001-2005, approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2000 (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.13/Add.1), aims to support national efforts to further advance the rights of children and women. UNICEF contributes directly to the achievement of these goals in a limited number of selected districts through the coordinated implementation of its sectoral programmes/projects and, on a national scale, through advocacy and support to select national policies, and by leveraging resources from other partners.

5. The programme of cooperation is comprised of six major sectoral programmes that address the most serious impediments to the realization of children's and women's rights: communication; health and nutrition; water and sanitation; basic education; rights promotion and child protection; and planning, monitoring and evaluation. Programme strategies are implemented at three operational levels:

(a) At family and community levels: providing families with adequate knowledge, skills and support to enable them to ensure the survival, growth and development of their children; to protect their children from neglect, abuse and exploitation; and to improve maternal and youth health practices;

(b) At the service provider level: increasing the availability, utilization and quality of basic social services by increasing community participation in the management of these services at the local level; and providing the necessary technical and supply support;

(c) At national and policy levels: encouraging and supporting national institutions and mass organizations in creating the policy conditions and support systems necessary for the successful implementation of projects at family and service provider levels.

6. The programme of cooperation addresses injury prevention by promoting a safe environment at family and community levels, as well as by reinforcing the capacity of basic social services to provide adequate information and education, and to support families and communities in adopting preventive measures. Activities are implemented in the target districts, and are integrated into the health and nutrition, rights promotion and child protection, and basic education sectoral programmes. Injury prevention has also been incorporated into the National Plan of Action for Children (2001-2010) approved by the Prime Minister.

Justification for additional funds

7. The problem of accidents and injuries in Viet Nam deserves a comprehensive national response that requires immediate investments in different sectors and at all levels of implementation. These investments exceed the geographical scope and resource allocation of the current approved country programme.

8. The Government and key development partners have shown their commitment and willingness to participate in injury prevention through the recent launching of the Safe Viet Nam Initiative. This initiative is a nationwide effort to increase awareness of safety issues among the general public as well as to reduce death and disability caused by preventable injuries. The fact that the donor community has requested UNICEF to liaise with the Government on this initiative provides UNICEF Viet Nam with the opportunity to expand its assistance in the areas of accident and injury prevention beyond the activities planned as part of the approved country programme.

9. In response to this interest, UNICEF has developed a project proposal to support the Government in implementing a more comprehensive strategic approach to injury prevention. This approach includes activities that complement those already ongoing in the approved country programme and focuses on geographic areas where accidents and injuries are especially frequent. These areas are not necessarily part of the districts targeted by the approved country programme.

10. The main goal of the **injury prevention** project is to reduce the incidence of fatal injuries, permanently disabling injuries and serious (but not disabling) injuries among Vietnamese children in the target areas by 33 per cent in the next five years. Specific objectives include: (a) creating safety awareness among the general public; (b) changing attitudes among children, parents/caretakers, and local and national leaders on safety and injury prevention; (c) modifying the behaviour of adults and children in an effort to reduce child and adolescent deaths and disabilities due to injuries; (d) modifying aspects of the physical environment that predispose children to injuries by deploying needed safety devices that protect children from being injured; and (e) influencing policy on issues related to safety as well as fostering ad hoc injury prevention legislation and its enforcement.

11. The primary target populations are children and their parents/caretakers. Secondary target groups include local and national leaders, community facilitators and the general public. The project will cover districts within the current country programme, as well as other areas and selected urban and heavy traffic hub sites that are not covered by the approved programme.

12. In order to achieve the above objectives, the project will employ the following strategies:

(a) Improving the evidence base through better data collection: by developing a reliable database that reports on injuries and the attitudes and practices of target groups; filling information gaps to enable the design of effective interventions; and setting up an injury surveillance system. A special effort will also be made to collect information related to mines and UXO injuries in affected areas;

(b) Advocacy and the development of policies, legislation and regulations: by assisting the Government to draft policies and legal instruments on safety and injury prevention; mobilizing decision makers to act responsibly on safety issues; and finalizing the National Child Safety and National Safety and Injury Prevention plans. UNICEF will also encourage the Government to sign and ratify the Ottawa Convention, which prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines;

(c) Increasing the target groups' understanding of injury: implementing activities to educate schoolchildren, parents, caretakers and the general public on injury prevention through various channels, including schools, communities and the mass media;

(d) Changing the physical environment: by removing injury risk factors from the environment surrounding children; training community volunteers to inspect homes, day-care centres and schools; and improving existing hazardous conditions;

(e) Design, production and deployment of safety devices: by piloting and introducing the use of injury protective devices; and carrying out the necessary information, education and communication activities to convince the public to utilize these devices, and to support research in this area;

(f) Intersectoral collaboration: by helping to coordinate the national coalition of partners working on safety and injury prevention; arriving at a common agenda (with specific actions to which each partner will commit); and expanding partnerships with the private sector.

13. In order to closely monitor activities and the resulting changes in the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the target populations, the existing community-based monitoring approach, already used as part of the health and nutrition sectoral programme, will be expanded to the new project areas.

14. The project will be implemented in close collaboration and coordination with government departments and partners of the Safe Viet Nam Initiative, including, inter alia, the United States Embassy in Hanoi, the Swedish International Development Authority, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, local non-governmental organizations and mass organizations. Private sector representatives, particularly manufacturers of products that have the potential to cause injuries, will also be involved.

15. Project activities will complement those within the approved country programme, particularly in the communication, health and nutrition, child protection and education programmes. At the national level, implementation of activities will be coordinated as part of the Safe Viet Nam Initiative through an intersectoral committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, and within the UNICEF country office through an intersectoral task force.

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
Injury prevention	1 801	1 170	982	1 045	4 998